

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph C. Link, Pastor  
Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.  
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP October 15, 1972

The Organ Prelude  
\*The Hymn of Praise 31  
\*The Call to Worship  
\*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)  
Merciful Judge, we who are unforgiving  
ask forgiveness. We are intolerant of other;  
unduly irritated by small things, frustrated  
by nothing; fighting over trivia. We are  
guilty of feeling sorry for ourselves; of  
being petty and unkind; of touching only to  
cause pain. Father, help us. We must be  
able to see beyond our selfish fears. We  
must be able to care. We must be able to be  
as you would have us be. Please, through,  
Christ Jesus. Amen.  
\*The Kyrie  
\*The Assurance of Pardon  
The Scripture----II Samuel 7:1-22  
\*The Gloria Patri  
The Anthem (Trinity Church)  
The Pastoral Prayer  
The Announcements  
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings  
\*The Doxology  
\*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer  
The Hymn of Meditation 191  
The Sermon----"What's It All about?"  
The Sermon Prayer  
\*The Hymn of Response 272  
\*The Benediction  
\*The Threefold Amen  
\*The Postlude

\*Congregation Stands

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible study will be held on Wednesday evening;  
at 7:30 PM at the church in Duncannon.

On Thursday Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM a workshop  
for all leaders of small children will be  
held in Incarnation U.C.C. Church in Newport.  
All teachers of Nursery and Kindergarten  
should plan to attend.

If there are any boys or girls 12 years of  
age or older who would like to be in the  
Confirmation Class, please contact the  
pastor.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Win A Chum class meeting at Dorothy Fellers  
Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. The Missionary ladies  
are invited to this meeting.

John McCoy is still in Room 907 of the  
Harrisburg Hospital.

Mrs. Elizabeth Saul celebrated her  
93rd birthday on Wednesday Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>. We  
join her family in wishing her happy returns  
for the day.

On Tuesday evening the regular consistory  
meeting will be held at 7:30 PM.

2 SAM

"What's It All About?"

Text: 2 Samuel 7:18, "Then King David went in and sat before the Lord, and said, "Who am I O Lord God, and what is my house that thou hast brought me thus far?"

Several years ago there was a popular song called Alphie. The questioner in the song asked the question, "What's it all about Alphie? Is it just for the moment that we live? What's it all about? When we started out Alphie are we meant to take more than we give? Or are we meant to be kind?

The words of this song are merely an echo of much of the world today. Most people are searching, and seeking. The searching and seeking has taken some strange forms to be sure, but involved is a deep desire to find identity.

Some young people have unfortunately ~~done~~ <sup>HAVE CHOSEN TO DO</sup> this with drugs and pills. Some young people and many adults do this with a bottle. Still others are doing this in various forms of religion. But in all circumstances is <sup>TO BE FOUND</sup> the element of quest. A quest for the knowledge of, ~~What's~~ "What's It All About?" "What Is Life Anyhow?" "Who Am I?"

King David when confronted with the things that God said he was going to do through him, (David), ~~he~~ questioned this. He said, "Who am I O Lord God, and what is my house that thou hast brought me thus far?" He was asking, "Whats it all about?" "Who am I in this life?" "Show me Lord, and then we will both know." <sup>HE JUST ASKED</sup>

<sup>As 100-717. HE WAS COMPARISON WITH WHO HE WAS, AND WANTED TO KNOW.</sup>

Two teen-agers were talking about reincarnation and one of them expressed what is a common dream of most persons. He said, "Gee, I'd love to be reincarnated. Believe me, I'd rather be anybody but who I am." Our first impulse in life is to escape the life we are locked up in. We want to break away from what we are, where we are,

and who we are. It is always rather amusing to hear someone refer to someone else as a hypocrite, because we are all hypocrites. We are born hypocrites and we die hypocrites. From the time when we are first aware of social pressure on our lives we live as hypocrites. When someone says, "They'll just have to accept me for what I am," that person is really saying, "They'll just have to take me for what I'd like to have them think I am." So he is being hypocritical.

When a young person lashes out to a parent, "You don't know me. You don't know who I am. You've never taken the trouble to really know what I am like," he is very likely trying to distract the adults because they have perhaps come too close to really knowing him. No person truthfully wants another person to really know him, to see him as he really is. To see him stripped of all his defenses and to see him ~~incompletely~~ as he really is down deep inside.

The word person comes from the Latin word "persona" which means mask. We read in Exodus of Moses face shining from being in the presence of God and so in order to hide the shine he put on a veil, a mask in other words. Our children put on masks on Halloween to hide their identity. We all wear different masks at different times. No one is really known and seen as he is. The strange thing is that sometimes strangers know more about us than we do about ourselves.

I was amused this past week when a workman left a tool at our house, and <sup>WHEN</sup> I returned it to the store, ~~the~~ the boss remarked that the tool belonged to so and so. I asked if perhaps he had missed it, and the boss replied that she knew it belonged to him. Here is a case of

~~an~~ an employer knowing more about the employee than is customary. <sup>& KNOWING MORE ABOUT HIM, THAN THE EMPLOYEE THINKS THE EMPLOYER KNOWS.</sup>

We see ~~the~~ social pressure exerted in many other parts of our society. In our attempts to be accepted by society we try to conform to the accepted patterns <sup>& STANDARDS</sup> and sometimes we do it very ridiculously. Look at all of the girls running around wearing mini skirts, who would

do better to find a style much more suitable to ~~them~~ <sup>THEM</sup>. For many of ~~the~~ <sup>or took</sup> the style just isn't right.

Look at many of the youth. They think they are being rebels by wearing long hair, <sup>or</sup> a beard, a dirty sweat shirt, blue jeans and sandals. But these people are not rebelling they are conforming. They are not rejecting the middle-aged establishment, they are accepting their own generation's establishment, whether they fit the pattern or not.

Europeans have said on different occasions, "Americans are a lot of people who spend a lot of money they don't have to buy ~~lots~~ a lot of things they don't want to impress a lot of people they don't like."

To a boy who ~~had~~ <sup>was</sup> bragged about his low grades and convinced himself that he ~~is~~ <sup>was</sup> at the point in the class where he belonged with his low IQ, a father asks, "How can you stand to be last in a class of fifty students." And the boy remarks, "Oh it could have been worse. There could have been a hundred in the class." It's all a matter of seeking identity.

In ~~San~~ Cleveland, Billy Graham asked the question in his sermon one night, "Who am I?" One leather lunged young man way up in the second tier toward the right field seats answered, "I'm somebody." Mr. Graham replied, "It's too bad his theology is not as strong as his lungs. The answer is that I am a child of God."

A child of God. Perhaps it is difficult to realize we are this, but that's who we are! That's what it's all about! Naturally we seek our identity, and naturally we are living in a very confusing time and age. But Paul tells us that we now see in this age as though we were looking in a mirror. All that we see is our reflection. We cannot see beneath the surface. But then we shall see face to face. In other words all will be revealed and exposed and there will be no



Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife  
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link  
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)











Ralph C. Link  
153 Keck Road  
Sarver, Pa. 16055  
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Married: December 15, 1951  
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill  
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

**SCHOOLING:**

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United  
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,  
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

**PASTORATES:**

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in  
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ  
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary  
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity  
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central  
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of  
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United  
Church of Christ

## PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.